GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:841
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Poisoning and Electrocution of Tigers
Kamal Nath Shri ;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of tigers had died in the year 2016 due to poisoning and electrocution in Madhya Pradesh;
(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
(c) whether any probe have been conducted in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the State Forest Department has failed to provide adequate protection to tigers resulting in their deaths; and
(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to seek a detailed report in this regard and issue directions/guidelines to protect the tigers and other endangered animals and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) As per the analysis of reported 32 tiger mortality in the State of Madhya Pradesh in year 2016, 3 tigers died due to poisoning in Pench Tiger Reserve and 5 died because of electrocution out of which two died in Chhindwara District, one each in buffer zones of Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves and in Balaghat.

(c) Yes Sir. A team from Government of India was constituted to cause spot appraisal with respect to death of three tigers (1 tigress and 2 cubs) by poisoning in Pench Tiger Reserve. The recommendations made by the said team has been conveyed to the State for needful. Offences have been registered as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended in 2006, which has led to apprehension of 29 offenders in the aforementioned cases of tiger mortality.

(d)No Sir. Madhya Pradesh is home to more than 300 tigers. Owing to adequate protection measures, the estimated number of 257 tigers in 2010 has gone upto 308 as per the All India Tiger Estimation conducted in year 2014, which is 20% more as compared to the last estimation. Out of a total of 32 tiger deaths in the State of Madhya Pradesh in year 2016, 18 are owing to natural causes which is more than 50% of total tiger mortality. The Special Tiger Strike Force has taken strong action against wildlife criminals and have been successful in arresting 116 offenders from more than 10 States and 2 foreigners involved in Pangolin poaching and other wildlife crimes, inter alia including tiger / panther poaching and electrocution cases in the tiger landscape.

(e) A 'Standard Operating Procedure' for disposing tiger/leopard carcass/body parts has been issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). Every tiger death is reported to the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Tiger States, after due examination, which inter alia includes forensic, toxicological reports from concerned organizations besides post-mortem report as given by a team of veterinarians, submits final report depicting the cause of death. In the NTCA Headquarters, the report sent by State is analysed at different levels and categorised as natural / unnatural case. Several milestone initiatives have been taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority for conservation and protection of tiger and other wild animals, and the same are at Annexure-I.

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